

celebrated annually for the past 48 years; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2022 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." and reflects Catholic schools' purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor, and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event—

(A) cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

(B) established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all people can celebrate; and

(3) supports—

(A) the dedication of Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States to academic excellence; and

(B) the key role that Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 507—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 1, 2022, AS "BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY"

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 507

Whereas, on January 22, 1942, in the midst of the Second World War, United States Army Captain George Maines ran an advertisement in the Flint News Observer calling for mothers of members of the Armed Forces to meet;

Whereas, on February 1, 1942, 300 mothers of members of the Armed Forces held their first meeting at the Durant Hotel in Flint, Michigan, and February 1, 2022, is the 80th anniversary of that meeting;

Whereas, on July 14, 1960, the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., received its charter from Congress;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers make enormous sacrifices while their sons and daughters are providing for the defense of the United States;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers pack and ship thousands of care packages every year to members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas, volunteer to help homeless veterans, provide support for wounded warriors, visit with hospitalized veterans, honor fallen heroes during funeral services, and offer a compassionate community for the mothers of men and women of the Armed Forces serving in harm's way;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers promote the values of the United States, demonstrate a patriotic spirit, and advance a national sense of pride and appreciation for the men and women of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas there are 208 active chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., throughout the United States representing thousands of military families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 1, 2022, as "Blue Star Mother's Day";

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.; and

(B) the important role Blue Star Mothers play in supporting each other and members and veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to observe Blue Star Mother's Day; and

(B) to support the work of local chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a staff briefing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL COURTS, OVERSIGHT, AGENCY ACTION, AND FEDERAL RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and

Federal Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 506, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 506) supporting the goals of National Catholic Schools Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 506) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 507, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 507) designating February 1, 2022, as "Blue Star Mother's Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 507) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution n, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3600, H.R. 3076, AND H.R. 6617

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3600) to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purpose.

A bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. MURPHY. I would now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE EURO-NATO JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 424.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 424) commemorating the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Sheppard Air Force Base and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 424) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 20, 2021 under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclu-

sion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bush nomination; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Nathan nomination and that following disposition of the Nathan nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bush nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Bush nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to urge that Congress speak with one voice, at a critical time, on an urgent matter.

The fight for freedom is being waged in Ukraine right now, and the outcome is going to have profound effects not just in Eastern Europe but around the globe.

Russia has invaded Ukraine twice in the last 8 years, illegally annexing Crimea, inserting troops and offensive military equipment into the Donbas region in the east. They have initiated cyber attacks against public and private entities in Ukraine, and they continue to use disinformation to try to destabilize the democratically elected government in Kyiv.

Now, the Russians have gone further by amassing more than 100,000 troops under the command of 100 tactical groups on Russia's Ukrainian border. This Russian deployment includes rockets, tanks, and artillery, and it is no longer just on the eastern border of Ukraine but now on the northern border, where Russian combat troops and heavy equipment have moved into Belarus and in Crimea in the Black Sea area.

Let me give a little history as to how we got here. Eight years ago, Ukraine made a choice. The people of Ukraine stood up to a corrupt Russian-backed government in 2014 and made a conscious decision to turn to the West—to the European Union, to the United States.

I was in Ukraine in 2014 shortly after what is called the Euromaidan or the Revolution of Dignity. When I was there in 2014, the Revolution of Dignity

barricades were still up, and in the center of town, the Maidan was still occupied by Ukrainian patriots who were determined that their country not go backwards.

The Ukrainian people at that time rejected authoritarianism. They said instead they were choosing democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom to gather, respect for the rule of law and free markets—turning to us.

Despite Russia's unrelenting efforts at destabilization over the past 8 years, the Ukrainian people are more committed than ever to an independent, sovereign, and democratic nation. And Ukrainians today are increasingly patriotic and opposed to the Russian efforts to destabilize their country. They don't want state control, repression, and fear; they choose liberty and prosperity.

Moscow would have the world believe that somehow this massive, unwarranted Russian buildup is about trying to shore up its border against threats from Ukraine and NATO. This is, of course, patently false. Ukraine's military posture has always been purely defensive, and, unlike Russia, Ukraine has up held its commitments under the Minsk agreements, which were designed to ensure a ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine in the Donbas region.

NATO, of course, is a defensive alliance and is no threat to Russian territorial integrity. NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg recently told reporters that the "significant movement" of Russian troops into Ukraine's neighbor, Belarus, is the "biggest Russian deployment there since the Cold War." And Russian troop numbers in Belarus are likely to climb to 30,000, with the backing of special forces, advanced fighter jets, short-range ballistic missiles, and S-400 ground-to-air missile defense systems. This is new.

By the way, Ukraine is not asking for us to fight these wars for them. They have been in a war with Russia over the past 8 years. They have lost over 14,000 Ukrainians to this battle, including at the line of contact, where there has been a hot conflict. I have been to the line of contact. I have seen it. I have seen where the Russian snipers have killed Ukrainian soldiers. I have talked to the soldiers from Ukraine, who are determined, committed, and patriotic.

Fourteen thousand people—if you compare the population of Ukraine to our population here in the United States of America, that would be the equivalent of us losing about 120,000 Americans over the past 8 years to an enemy. That is more people than we lost in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. Think how we would feel. This is how the Ukrainians feel.

Ukraine is not asking, again, for us to fight their war for them, but they are asking for increased lethal military assistance to help defend themselves should Russia make a big mistake and decide to invade further into Ukraine.